

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 26 and 27 remain pending.

The Applicants thank Examiner Laryea and Primary Examiner Winakur for the courtesies extended to the Applicants' representative and Mrs. Kawakami of the assignee, Hitachi, Ltd., during the February 1, 2008 office interview.

During the interview, the Examiners indicated that the rejection would be withdrawn in view of the Reply filed on January 9, 2008. The Examiners further suggested that a double patenting rejection might be made over U.S. Patent No. 6,735,460. A Terminal Disclaimer is transmitted herewith to avoid the possibility of this rejection and expedite the allowance of the application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

To the extent necessary, the Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to

the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. ASA-701-04).

Respectfully submitted,

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